

dollars to him. Seldom or ever is there a betrayal of trust in this way.

The examination papers, printed so extensively in London, are of the most tremendous importance to certain classes, who would pay almost any sum to obtain the roughest proof of the night before. An instance of this kind occurred quite recently. "A printer was got at," and promised a considerable amount of money for a rough proof. What was his course of action? He simply informed the authority, and the tempter was punished. It was another and a creditable example of how well and honorably kept are the secrets of the printing office.

We might go on and enumerate hundreds, yes, thousands, of instances where the printer has been tempted in vain to disclose what he knew concerning important secrets. But the primary lessons of a printing office seems to sink deeply into the minds of young aspirants after typographical knowledge, and hence, we presume, their loyalty and devotion to the interests of their employers.

It is not necessary to counsel the older members of the craft; but, to the younger ones we would say, boys, never forget to keep everything in a printing office which belongs there; never entertain outsiders about printing office affairs.

#### Few Bookstores.

In Russia there are districts where, it is said, one may pass through a population of a hundred thousand people without seeing anything in the form of a book, except the Slavonic Bible or the well-worn book of an official. According to a correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette*, there are in Moscow, a town of 800,000 inhabitants, only four or five Russian book shops worthy of the name, while there are four German shops. St. Petersburg is better off, but it has only fifty booksellers, or one to every 14,000 persons. These towns are, of course, the centres from which proceed the publications that supply the rest of the empire. Warsaw has one vendor of books to every 16,000 people, and Odessa one to every 10,000, but half of the Odessa shops are in a decayed condition. Cronstadt, in spite of its large garrison of educated officers and Finnish sailors, has only two shops to 48,000 people; Abo, in Finland, one to 20,000; and Omsk, the exile centre of Siberia and the site of the future university, one to 27,000. Finally, Tashkend is the worst of all, having only a sin-

gle book shop to 76,000 people, and that a bad one. Taking provincial Russia, the proportion of booksellers to the town population is roughly estimated to be one to every 20,000 people, while none at all will be found in towns having less than 10,000 inhabitants. At the same time it may be noted that an Odessa correspondent of the *Moscow Gazette* reports that the three best books on farming in South Russia are purchased chiefly by Englishmen. One bookseller told him that he sold twice as many of those books to Englishmen as he did to Russians, and that the purchasers were either tourists or men who had bought farms in the neighborhood of Odessa.

#### Influence of Newspapers.

A school teacher, who had been a long time engaged in his profession, and witnessed the influence of a newspaper upon the minds of a family of children, writes as follows:

I have found it to be a universal fact, without exception, that those scholars of both sexes and of all ages who have access to newspapers at home, when compared with those who have not, are:

1. Better readers, excellent in pronunciation, and consequently read more and understandingly.

2. They are better spellers, and define words with ease and accuracy.

3. They obtain a practical knowledge of geography in almost half the time it requires of others, as the newspapers have made them acquainted with the location of the important places, of nations, their government and doings on the globe.

4. They are better grammarians for having become so familiar with every variety of style in the newspapers, from the common-place advertisement to the finishing and classical oration of statesmen, they more readily comprehend the meaning of the text and constantly analyze its construction with accuracy.

5. They write better composition, using better language, containing more thoughts — more clearly and correctly expressed.

6. Those young men who have for years been readers of newspapers are always taking the lead in debating societies, exhibiting a more extensive knowledge upon a greater variety of subjects, and expressing their views with greater fluency, clearness and correctness.